

Washington, DC (March 15, 2011) – U.S. Rep. Gus Bilirakis (FL-09), Chairman of the House Subcommittee on Emergency Preparedness, Response and Communications, issued the following statement in response to the worsening condition at Japan's Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant and the need to ensure proper response measures in the U.S.:

"As the devastation continues in Japan, my thoughts and prayers continue to be with those affected by this terrible natural disaster.

"I commend Florida Governor Rick Scott's proactive call to review emergency preparedness plans at the state's nuclear plants and urge other state leaders to take the necessary steps to ensure that effective response plans are in place should we face a disaster at one of our nation's nuclear plants. We must continue to review the response measures we have in place, including the most efficient way to distribute aid during such an emergency."

Bilirakis is holding a hearing on Thursday in which he will address, among other issues, medical preparedness and response efforts to attacks or disasters. The subject of the hearing is "Ensuring Effective Preparedness, Response, and Recovery for Events Impacting Health Security" and the witness will be Dr. Alexander Garza, Assistant Secretary of Health Affairs with the Department of Homeland Security's Office of Health Affairs.

Background information:

[Governor Rick Scott and Emergency Management Officials Conduct Emergency Preparedness Review of Florida's Nuclear Power Plants](#)
[FEMA Guidelines for a Nuclear Power Plant Emergency](#)